provided to Bihar State Government. A total number of 30 Districts were covered under the Scheme namely Patna, Nalanda, Bhojpur, Rohtas, Gaya, Nawada, Aurangabad, Hazaribagh, Giridih, Singhbhum, Palamu, Ranchi, Suran, Siwan, Gopalganj, Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Vaishali. Champaran (East), Chamaparan (West) Darbhanga, Samastipur, Madhubani., Saharsa, Madhupura, Purnea, Katihar, Bhagalpur, Munger, Santhalpargana. However, at present an Integrated Cereal Development Programme on Rice based Cropping systems areas (ICDP-Rice) is being implemented in the State on 75:25 funding pattern between Government of India and State in which assistance is provided to the farmers for transfer of technology through field demonstrations and training of farmers as well as incentive for critical inputs such as seed. Farm implements etc.

Consumer Rights

1704. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to increase awareness on consumer rights in the country particularly in the rural areas;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch any concrete plan to take the consumer movement to the grassroot level for the benefit of common man;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount spent by the Union Government on enhancing the consumer awareness during each of the last three years; and

(e) the measures being taken for the speedy disposal of consumer complaints?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). The Government has taken a number of measures to increase consumer awareness in the country. Such measures include preparation of audio visual material, printed material in the form of boolets, brochures, posters, etc. in the field of consumer protection for propagation of consumer rights. It is also publishing a monthly journal "Upabhokta Jagaran" which disseminates useful information to the consumers in the field of consumer awareness. The printed material as also the journal are distributed free of cost. In addition, Consumer Welfare fund has been set-up to provide financial assistance to the voluntary consumer organizations, etc. for undertaking activities in the field of consumer protection and promoting consumer movement at the grass root level, particularly in the rural areas.

(d) The amount spent by the Central Government to increase consumer awareness in the country was approximately Rs. 99 lakhs, Rs. 136 lakhs and Rs. 191 lakhs during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively.

(e) In order to provide speedy redressal of consumer complaints and also to reduce pendency of cases in the Consumer Fora, the Central Government has commenced a scheme of one time financial assistance of Rs. 61 crores to the State and UTs to strengthen the infrastructure of the Consumer Fora.

[Translation]

Sewarage Treatment Plant

1705. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a sewarage treatment plant on the Ring Road near Wazirabad bridge on the river Yamuna in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred on the plant;

(c) whether the said plant is non-functional; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore along-with the details of steps being taken to make the said plant functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). Sewage treatment plant based on the oxidation pond technology was set up near Wazirabad Bridge on Ring Road near Timarpur in early 70's. The treatment plant consists of 16 number of oxidation ponds with a treatment capacity of 12 million gallons per day. The plant is functional. An expenditure of Rs. 14.50 lakhs has been incurred on the operation and maintenance of this plant so far during the current financial year.

(d) Does not arise.

Pension for Old Age Persons

1706. SHRI D.P. YADAV :
SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH :
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of old age persons likely to be benefited under the 'National Old Age Pension Scheme' during 1996-97, State-wise;

(b) the guidelines being followed for providing old age pension;

(c) the total population of the old age persons as per 1991 census State-wise;

(d) whether Government propose to include all eligible old persons under this scheme in Uttar Pradesh;